

**Richmond Tri-Cities  
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2006**

**Hosted by:** Hope Unity and Freedom

**Location:** The HUF Center, Richmond, VA

**Committee members present:** Sebastian Symeonides (Chairman), Otis Lockhart, Christian Bennett, and Tarah Comer

**Committee members absent:** Lynn Robinson

**Affiliates present:** Hope Unity and Freedom (Georgina Simmons, James Webber, Rashid Coleman), Edgewood Group Family Services (Travis Crocker), Community Connections, LLC (Andre Y. Brown), Renewance Services, LLC (Frederick Rogers), Youth Pathways, LLC (Hannibal Tuck), Westlake Residential (Jimmy Pratt), Lumzy's Residential (Laveene Lumzy, Biranne Jones, Carnie Lumzy), Taylor's Enhanced Living (Denise Taylor and Sophronia Pettefield), Wilkerson's Consultants (Thomas Chase), Family Impact Inc. (Steven Thompson), Open Arms Family Services, Inc. (Marchal Anderson), Life Construction Mental Health Services (Eunice B. Guilchrist), Faith Partners Care Group (Tracy Jefferson, Chequita Harrington), Transitional Home Care (Linda Davis, Myra Bruie), Family Transitions, Inc. (Franko Britt), Isaiah's House Residential Services (Berald Edwards), Safe Haven, Inc. (John Bamisile, Mitchel Thomas), Faith and Family Advocate, LLC (Deidre W. Whitte)

**Affiliates absent:** Mercy-N-Grace, Between the T's, and Halo Inc.

**Other(s) present:** Jim Bowser, Regional Advocate

**I. Welcome/Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Sebastian Symeonides at 6:20 pm

**II. Introductions**

Members and affiliates gave introductions, providing program name and name of representatives(s)

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from March 21, 2006 were circulated. In the minutes, it was suggested to add and notate the names of the speakers from the previous meeting. This was motioned by Otis Lockhart and seconded by Christian Bennett. The minutes were approved with this addition.

**IV. Request for Affiliation**

- A. Steven Thompson from Family Impact Inc. gave a brief presentation regarding the services provided. Family Impact is providing in-home services for children ages 12-17. Workers are trained professionals. Family Impact also provides an Anger

Management Program including 10 sessions that has been implemented in 10 different schools.

1. Otis Lockhart moved to accept request for full affiliation, seconded by Christian Bennett. Full affiliation was granted by the committee.

## **V. Human Rights Policy and Procedures Review**

A. Denise Taylor presented for Taylor's Enhanced Living. Taylor's Enhanced Living provides residential services and is located in Ettrick, VA (Petersburg). Admission criteria for clients was communicated to the committee as 18 and older with a IQ of below 70. Local community service boards and state facilities were reported as primary sources of referral. Taylor's Enhanced Living can service up to 4 beds, but is currently serving two clients.

1. Sebastian Symeonides gave information about the nature of policy and procedures presentations and expectations of the review by the committee.
2. A motion was made by Otis Lockhart to defer any action on the policy and procedures due to the affiliate's difficulty in communicating the services provided and policies and procedures. The motion was seconded by Tarah Comer. Christian Bennett opposed the action. The presentation and policy and procedures review was deferred until the next meeting in order to give a full presentation

B. Marchal Anderson presented for Open Arms Family Services Inc. Open Arms Family Services Inc. provides intensive in-home services. In January 2006 their license was obtained. Open Arms reported serving areas of Richmond, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, and Petersburg. The target population is children ages of 5-18 and their families. School and parent aide services are also available. All staff are trained in Crisis Wave to handle crisis situations. A temporary treatment plan is made for the first 30 days of treatment, and a permanent treatment plan is made between 30-90 days of service. Referral sources are Department of Social Services, FAPT teams, and Community Service Boards.

1. Christian Bennett referred to pg. 28 #3, to question whether Open Arms has standard rules of conduct.
  - a. Sebastian Symeonides suggested to include program expectations in the policies and procedures.
2. A motion was made to accept the policies and procedures as reviewed by Tarah Comer, which was seconded by Otis Lockhart. Policies and Procedures were accepted by the committee for Open Arms

## **VI. Human Rights Activities Reporting**

A. The following affiliates reported their activities: Westlake Residential (Jimmy Pratt), Edgewood Group (Travis Crocker), Family Transitions (Franko Britt), Community Connections (Andre Brown), Wilkersons Consultants (Thomas Chase), Safe Haven, Inc. (Mitchel Thomas), Lumzy's Residential Services

(Laveene Lumzy), Open Arms (Marchal Anderson), Transitional Adult Residential Care (Linda Davis), Life Construction Mental Health (Eunice Gilchrist), Youth Pathways (Hannibal Tuck), Faith Partners Care Group (Chiqita Harrington), Faith and Family Advocates (Deidre Whitte), Renewance Services (Frederick Rogers), HUF Center (Georgina Simmons), Isaiah's House (Berald Edwards), Substance Abuse Consulting (?), and Taylor's Enhanced Living (Sophrinea Pettifield).

1. A motion was made by Otis Lockhart to accept reportings
2. The motion was seconded by Christian Bennett
3. Reports were accepted by the committee

## **VII. Next Meeting Schedule**

- A. The next meeting will be held July 18 at 6:00 pm and the meeting will be hosted by Faith Partners Care Group
- B. A motion was made by Otis Lockhart to begin a rotation list of affiliates responsible for hosting the meetings effective, at the September 19, 2006 meeting. Tarah Comer seconded. The committee will develop this list.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Sebastian Symeonides at 8:32 p.m.